



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/073,432	02/11/2002	Klaus Muller	TRW (AEC) 6039	4439

26294 7590 03/26/2003

TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL, TUMMINO & SZABO LLP  
1111 LEADER BUILDING  
526 SUPERIOR AVENUE  
CLEVEVLAND, OH 44114-1400

EXAMINER

LUEBKE, RENEE S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2833

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/073,432

Applicant(s)

MULLER &amp; GIRKE

Examiner

Renee S. Luebke

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 February 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5 & 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

Art Unit: 2833

1. The drawings are objected to because they do not appear to properly represent the invention. For example:

a. The drafting appears to be faulty. What happens to the thickness of the plate 20 and board 28 in Fig. 3?

b. There should apparently be an opening through one or both of the plate and the board for the actuator 16 to extend through.

c. It is unclear whether the contacts 22a and 22b are elevated above the plate 20 in Fig. 2.

d. The center of plate 20 in Fig. 3 does not appear to properly represent the structure shown in Fig. 2 or described in the specification.

e. The sliding paths 30, 30' should more accurately indicate their locations thereof so as to at least suggest that the disclosed and claimed connections can be made.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The specification suggests (page 4, lines 18-20) that the ramps 18 are axially shifted with respect to each other. It is unclear how they can move with respect to each other since they are both attached to the same actuating member.

Art Unit: 2833

The tabs 24a, 24b, 34 and 36 which project above the level of contacts 22a, 22b, 24c and 24d would appear to interfere with the ability of the contacts to contact circuit board 28.

How are the actuator 16 and the plate 20 attached? If they are securely attached, how can the ramps be moved relative to the tabs? If the actuator and plate are not securely attached, how is the plate 20 supported?

How does the connection of the contacts 24c, 26c cause electrical connection between the contact element 22 and the circuit board 28 as suggested on page 5, lines 2-4?

How are the movable contact carrier and the actuating member coupled together "for joint rotation and axial movement" as required on line 4 of claim 1? There is no connection or coupling disclosed.

In addition, the meaning of claim 5 is unknown.

4. **Any response to this action may be mailed to:**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 872-9318 or 308-7722 or 308-7724  
(informal or draft communications should be clearly labeled  
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

**Hand-delivered responses** should be brought to:

Crystal Plaza 4, Fourth Floor (Receptionist)  
2201 South Clark Place, Arlington, Virginia.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Mrs. Renee Luebke whose telephone number is (703) 308-1511.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mrs. Paula Bradley, can be reached at (703) 308-2319.



Renee S. Luebke  
Primary Patent Examiner  
March 21, 2003